



IEFA Ledger, April Newsletter 2013

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[CLICK HERE](#) SEE INDIAN EDUCATION "HOT TOPICS" FOR CURRENT **SPRING AND SUMMER IEFA AND IEFA/COMMON CORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** LISTINGS. CHECK BACK FREQUENTLY FOR UPDATES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES AS THEY COME IN, 21 LISTINGS AND COUNTING ...

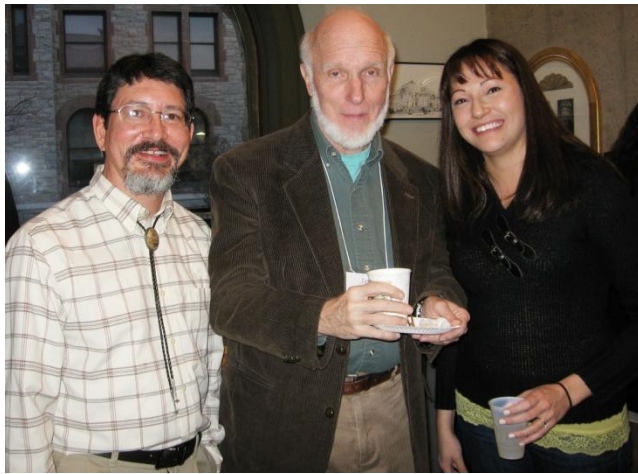
Best Practices Conference Highlights

From Jennifer Stadum, Conference Coordinator

The 7th Annual Best Practices Conference was "one of the best conferences I have ever attended," claimed one conference participant this year. Another said she was "re-energized to spice up" her teaching strategies and really appreciated the fantastic modeling provided by the presenters. Educators from across the state were welcomed by the All Nations Youth Alliance and were enthusiastically encouraged by this year's Teresa Veltkamp Advocacy Award for Excellence in Indian Education for All honoree, Brenda Johnston. Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau presented Brenda with the award and gave a warm welcome to the teachers in the midst of her very busy legislative session schedule.

This year the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena was abuzz with nearly 270 registrants and 27 presentations. Once again, the community of teachers and educators who joined us fostered new relationships and enjoyed re-connecting with others they only see once a year at Best Practices. It is always fun to listen in on conversations about what has been learned and will be employed back in classrooms. It was such an honor to be joined by

the education staff from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian – Edwin Schupman, Claire Cuddy, and Pam Woodis.



James Loewen, author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, held his audience's attention with his good nature and sense of humor while sharing examples of misnomers and misconceptions that are so important that we Montana educators address through Indian Education for All. His break-out session was equally as impactful.

(Mike Jetty, James Loewen, Mandy Smoker Broadbuss)

We tried something new this year with "in depth" sessions that were 2 ½ hours long. The subtheme of the conference was exposure to Indian Education for All and the Common Core. Anna Baldwin, Dottie Susag, Patti Bartlett, and the Instructional Coaches for Bozeman Public Schools covered best practices and strategies to get at critical literacy, content and common core with presentations on poetry, close analytic reading, science, and history. The feedback on all of these sessions was overwhelmingly positive. The sessions were definitely a mile deep and an inch wide!

We hope you can join us for the 8th annual conference to be held most likely on the Monday and Tuesday following President's Day in February 2014!

A Cultural Continuum – Readings from *Birthright: Born to Poetry*

This year's Best Practices Conference provided the opportunity to invite the poets whose work had been featured in the 2012 OPI publication *Birthright: Born to Poetry – A Collection of Montana Indian Poetry* to read their poetry on stage at the Myrna Loy Theater in Helena, as part of the 7th Annual Best Practices Conference. OPI's Mike Jetty shared an Honor Song and introduced poets Minerva Allen, Heather Cahoon, Vic Charlo, Jennifer Finley, Dick Littlebear, Joe McGeshick, Henry Real Bird, M.L. Smoker, and Lois Welch in James Welch's stead who captivated us all with their generous,

strong and moving spirits and voices. Mike called them together on the stage, at the evening's end, as the audience gave a standing ovation to this perfect line of poetry.

Resource Spotlight – Featuring poetry online, Montana Tribes background info and Common Core Companion Guides ...

- The gathering of poets at Best Practices conference allowed for another unprecedented opportunity – each poet was videotaped separately reading his/her poetry. (Supt. Denise Juneau offered a reading of James Welch poetry.) By the end of April, check the OPI website – both the [IE home page](#) and Curriculum Resources [Language Arts – Birthright](#) ... for access to “**Montana Indian Poets – Online Readings.**” The readings will be accessible in both video and audio only formats in support of educators using the [Birthright: Born to Poetry](#) curriculum.
- Looking for excellent online video background information about Montana tribes and reservations? The Montana Office of Tourism (Montana Official State Travel Site) in partnership with Montana tribes offers: [SACRED LANDS FROM PEAKS TO PLAINS](#) – Note the 9 min. imbedded video “Introducing the First Nations of Montana to the World.”
- Indian Education for All Connections with English Language Arts & Literacy – [COMPANION GUIDES](#) – highlighting MCCS alignment in the OPI literature units. (**Grade-specific elementary and middle grade companion guides available now – high school soon to follow.**)



This online resource is intended to provide guidance for instruction that incorporates the Indian Education for All (IEFA) resources aligned with the Montana Common Core Standards: English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects. Educators can be assured that by utilizing the units in their instruction, they are addressing the Standards. Indian Education connections provide the content that

makes the standards come alive. Both the grade-specific Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS) and the OPI [Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians](#) (EU) connections with the OPI IEFA curriculum resources are identified throughout the Companion Guide, along with activities to meet standards.

- **REVISED with MCCS/IEFA Connections**, *Elementary Model Teaching Units Language Arts* [Volume One](#) and [Volume Two](#) are now available online and will be sent to elementary school libraries. These two volumes offer nine curriculum units supporting the teaching of excellent picture books and point to the MCCS alignment within each. (Featured books - **Vol. One:** *The Little Duck Sikihsis; The Good Luck Cat; Jingle Dancer; The Moccasins; and Red Parka Mary;* **Vol. Two:** *Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?; The Gift of the Bitterroot; Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story; and The War Shirt.*)
- The tribal history project of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana has recently been sent to school libraries – **"The Whole Country was ... 'One Robe'" The Little Shell Tribe's America** by Nicholas C.P. Vrooman, published by the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana and Drumlummon Institute 2012 offers 392 pages of deep history and a collection of remarkable photographs.
- Online Professional Development for educators - **updated online resource – OPI Renewal Units available. Visit [Essential Understanding Number 6, Online Presentation](#)** – The Office of Public Instruction has developed this web based professional development resource for educators who would like to increase their background knowledge regarding the implementation of Indian Education for All. This presentation focuses on Essential Understanding 6 – History from American Indian Perspectives. The presentation is approximately one hour in length. Participants who would like to receive one OPI renewal unit must complete a brief quiz and submit it to OPI. Instructions are included at the end of the presentation. **More online IEFA presentations coming soon ...**

Rotunda Day – IEFA on Display in the Capitol

Eighteen educators from several public schools around the state, the Montana Historical Society and the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives attracted dozens of legislators on lunch break at a successful Rotunda Day held at Montana's state capitol in Helena, March 14, 2013.

Legislators were personally invited to come and see the great work these educators, their constituents, have been doing integrating Indian Education for All. Excellent questions were asked and the awareness of Indian Education for All being implemented across the curriculum was a hot topic between legislators and educators alike. We hope through events such as these our elected officials will better understand this unique and important law.

The IEFA team was joined by: the Great Falls IEFA coaches (Sandra Boham and Jolena Henschman); the Helena IEFA coaches (Jan Jamruska-Wilson, Peg Hunter, and Roni Hawkins); Nicholas Vrooman and Linda Davis (representing the new Little Shell tribal history resource); Shawn Orr (teacher, Arlee); Michaun, Archer (4th grade teacher, Olney-Bissell); Deb Mitchell and Martha Kohl, Montana Historical Society; Chris Fisk and John Bercier (Butte High School) and Ellen Crain (Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives) - Museum School Partnership Grant Participants; and Nancy Marks of the Western Montana System of Comprehensive Professional Development. Thank you to all of our highly valued partners across the state.